

luxuries are more widely diffused, and comforts unknown to our forefathers are enjoyed by the humblest of the people. Habits of intemperance, however, it is to be feared, have become more common, and form the chief barrier in the way of social improvement. Wages have been greatly raised, but the style of living has become more expensive; recklessness and improvidence are more common characteristics of the labouring classes, and pauperism has consequently been on the increase. The principal improvement of which the system of agriculture seems susceptible is a still farther extension of the system of tile-draining, by which the inferior soils will be rendered more productive. Where the supply of coal is so abundant, the improvement of the harbour would unquestionably increase trade and manufactures; and a more complete education bestowed upon the children of the poor, would produce a greater refinement of manners, conduct more strictly moral, and habits of economy, sobriety, and industry.

October 1839.

PARISH OF WEST CALDER.

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. WILLIAM LEARMONTH, A.M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY,

Boundaries.—West Calder is bounded on the east by Mid-Calder; on the south, by Linton and Dunsyre; on the west, by Carnwath and Cambusnethan; and on the north, by Whitburn and Livingstone, which last are separated from it by Brieich Water, a tributary of the Almond. The parish is about 10 miles long, by $5\frac{1}{2}$ broad.

Coal, &c.—The greater part of this parish probably stands on rocks of the carboniferous system. Coal has been dug for in various places, and a supply of a tolerably good kind has been got for several years from Woodmuir, about three miles and a-half west from the village. At Leven-seat, four miles west, and at Baad's mill, one mile and a-half south-west, coal has been found, and the working of it has been in progress at both these places. The supply has as yet been small and of inferior quality. Abundance of

limestone is found in connection with the coal at Baad's Mill, which, when burned, is considered of a superior quality for building, but inferior for manure, being of a more coaly nature than that in the neighbouring parishes. A supply of tolerably good lime has for many years been had at Handerswood. There was a stratum of limestone at Limefield, about a mile and a-half east from the village, about nine or ten feet thick, which is now exhausted, and the kilns are completely removed.

Ironstone has been wrought for a number of years on the estate of Handerswood by the Wilsontown Iron Company; and for about three years past, on the estate of Muldren, at the western extremity of the parish, by the Shotts Company. It has been found about two fathoms above the coal at Longford; but only a small quantity has as yet been wrought there.

Botany.—The Flora of the parish is varied and interesting, possessing many rare plants. *Pyrola uniflora* is to be found in Harburn Firwood; *Lonicera caprifolium* in the hedges; *Dryas octopetala* at Levensseat, Handerswood; *Viola lutea* at Woodmuir; *Gagea lutea*, or *Ornithogalum luteum*, is more abundant on the banks of Briechwater, than at Auchtertool Linn, one of its most noted stations. Besides the *Ericas* common to most of our Scottish heaths, there is a rich variety, seldom to be found, of the *Erica vulgaris*. Ferns abound throughout the parish; and in less than half an acre of ground, in a small glen on the border of the village, fourteen species of *Polypodium*, *Aspidium*, *Oreopteris*, and *Asplenium* have been found. The meadows are enriched with numerous varieties of *Orchis mascula*, *Morio*, *latifolia*, and *maculata*, also with *Listera ovata*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, and *Pinquicula vulgaris*. The drier grounds abound with *Habenaria viridis*, and *H. albida*. The parasite *Orobanche major* is very abundant. There are hundreds of other plants, common to the most of Scotland, which it would be superfluous to mention here.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—Toward the southern extremity of the parish, on the Harburn estate, there was an old castle, said to have been fortified by Cromwell, to repress the depredations of the Moss-troopers.

On the top of a rising ground called Castlecraig, there are the remains of a small Roman camp,—within the environs of which several Roman coins have been dug up.

Parochial Registers.—These have been so kept, that they do

EDINBURGH.

not enable us to present any accurate account of the deaths, births, or marriages.

Land-owners and their Valuation.—

The Rev. Houston Douglas, Baads,	L.502	0	0
Alexander Young, Esq., W. S., Harburn,	359	6	6
Thomas Gloag, Esq., Limefield,	213	13	0
Thomas Hardie, Esq., Grange,	208	7	0
Stewart B. Hare, Esq., Handerwood,	200	0	0
Mrs Maitland, Hermand,	192	13	0
Rev. James Logan, Esq., Loganlee,	182	16	8
George Watson's Hospital, Briechnmill,	142	18	6
James M'Leod, Esq., Polbeth,	132	8	8
William John Smellie, Esq., Addiewell,	118	8	4
John M. Mowbray, Esq., W. S., Hartwood,	114	5	9
Sir Henry Jardine, Harwood,	110	0	0
John Dods, Esq., Middle Crosswood,	97	13	4
John Davie Martin, Esq. Gaviside, &c.	83	0	0
James Graham, Esq., Muldren,	80	0	0
Thomas Balfour, Esq., Woodmuir,*	60	11	8
Andrew Steele, Esq. Crosswoodhill,	58	0	8
John Kidd, Esq., North Cabenshaw, &c.	51	2	2
James Elder, Esq., Bents,	50	0	0
James Carruthers, Esq., South Cabinshaw,	46	14	5
James Paterson, Esq., East Torphin,	42	18	5
Mrs Wylie, Annatfield,	38	11	8
Allan Gibson, Esq., Rashiehill,	38	6	8
Major Berrie, West Torphin,	31	1	5
John Graham, Esq., Meadowhead,	27	0	0
Claud Storrie, Esq., Blackhill,	26	0	0
John Penny, Esq., Birniehill,	19	0	11
----- Gibson, Esq., Broomhill,	16	11	7
Total, Scots money,	L.3133	10	4

Modern Buildings.—The mansion-houses and offices of Hermand were built by the late Lord Hermand about 1797. Limefield and Harburn were built about 1804. These are large and commodious houses, well finished, and the surrounding grounds tastefully laid out and adorned. Hartwood is a smaller, but a handsomer house, built about 1807, on a good site, by the father of the present proprietor. This, with Harwood, built about 1768, is in the common form of a good country manse, with a kitchen attached to the one end, and a room of similar size attached to the other. Gaviside, built 1730, is a small but neat house, with very superior offices attached to it. Muldren, rebuilt in 1828, is of the same stamp, and Bents was built about 1825. Chapelton was formed in 1780 into a neat one storey house, with good attic bed-rooms, by the late Mr Gloag of Limefield. The other proprietors who live on their property have only small one storey houses. The farm-houses and offices on the Harburn estate are of a superior order. Some good houses have of late been built on the estate of Baads; and others are about to be built. The old man-

* John Weir, Esq., is proprietor of Woodmuir coal.

sion-house of Baads is a very small house of two storeys, occupied by the person who farms the land surrounding it. The farm-houses in general throughout the parish are of an inferior kind. The manse was rebuilt in a large and commodious form, with back-kitchen and two small rooms above, separated by a staircase from the other building, and finished in 1837. The offices were built in 1822, and are also good. The village has been much improved of late in appearance, by old houses being taken down, and several neat, small cottages built.

III.—POPULATION.

There have been 13 illegitimate births in the parish within the three years, 1838, 1839, 1840.

In 1801, the population amounted to	1185
1811,	1435
1821,	1458
1831,	1617
1841,	1666

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Produce.—The general process of agriculture in this parish consists in spreading lime and other sorts of manure on lea, and then taking two or three crops of oats. After this, the field lies three or four years in grass. The farmers have discovered that lime acts as a powerful solvent on all kinds of mossy earth, and they have applied the discovery with great success. In some places, the soil, which is in general very wet, has been much improved by draining. It is generally believed, that, if a regular system of draining were introduced, the soil would not only be much more productive, but the harvest two or three weeks earlier than it is at present. Some of the proprietors have improved the soil and the appearance of their estates, by enclosing their fields with double rows of hedges and ditches, and filling up the vacancy with, in general, fir trees adapted to the climate. They have also succeeded in producing a regular rotation of crops, according to the most approved modes of agriculture. Wheat, barley, flax, pease and beans, turnips and potatoes are raised in this parish; but the grain most generally produced, is oats, the average produce of which may be about from 6 to 8 bolls an acre. When the ground is laid down with grass seeds, the prevailing crop is rye-grass. Clover is little sown. A greater quantity of rye-grass seed is preserved than what is necessary for next year, so that in good years, from 150 to 250 bolls are sold out of the parish.

There are considerably more horses reared than are required to

supply the wants of the people ; and the rearing of cattle has been attended to by some of the proprietors and tenants. According to the last Statistical Account, the rents were mostly paid from the sale of cattle ; but during the course of the last twenty years, great improvements have been made in the management of the dairy ; and at present a considerable number of the tenants depend, in a great measure, on its proceeds to enable them to pay their rents. They produce good butter, and cheese, of excellent quality. Some of them transport their butter and butter-milk regularly once or twice a-week to Edinburgh market.

It is scarcely possible to ascertain the rent of arable land, because the greater number of farms have some moss or moor connected with them. According to the estimation of the farmers, the arable portion of their farms costs them from 14s. to L.1 an acre. The size of the farms is seldom greater than what is necessary to support a family, and almost every attempt to accumulate this kind of property has failed. The want of capital prevents the farmers from making important improvements, yet a good deal has been effected of late years, by some active and enterprising tenants. The estates of Harburn, Hartwood, and Hermand, have, during the last forty years, been adorned with small plantations, and greatly improved in their agriculture, by the intelligent attention of the proprietors. Harburn, in particular, resembles an oasis in a desert. Trees were rare about sixty or seventy years ago in the parish, but are now abundant.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—Previous to the year 1646, West Calder was a part of the parish of Mid-Calder, and had a chapel belonging to it at a place three-fourths of a mile from the village of West Calder. This place is still called Chapelton ; and the proprietor has in his possession a large hollow stone, which seems to have been the font of the chapel. In the year 1647, the Commissioners for the Plantation of Kirks and Valuation of Teinds, valued the teinds of Calder Comitatus, which included the parishes of Mid and West Calders ; and allocated the whole teinds as stipend to the ministers of the two parishes. West Calder stipend after this amounted to 800 merks, together with 50 merks for communion elements, and 30 merks for grass, till it was raised by the Government grant for the augmentation of small stipends, to L.150 Sterling, with 200 merks for communion elements. The glebe consists of 24 imperial acres, and is worth about 20s. an acre. There has been also,

for forty years, a Dissenting meeting-house in the village, belonging to the United Secession. The inhabitants adhered to the church in about the proportion of sixteen to eleven.

Education.—The parish school has generally attending it from 50 to 90 scholars. The teacher has a good house and garden. The salary is the maximum. The probable yearly amount of fees paid to the parochial schoolmaster is about L. 15 or L. 16. The other emoluments may probably amount to from L. 35 to L. 40. There is another school in the village, attended by about the same number of children as the parish school; but, as the teacher depends chiefly on the school fees for a living, he must be very poorly supported. There is likewise a school four miles west of the village, attended by a great number of children.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The funds for supplying the poor of this parish, arose formerly from the weekly collections, from the mortcloth money, from the sum of 2s. 6d. given at each marriage, and from the interest of a bond for L.100. The following table shows the rate of collections for six months in the summer and autumn: In 1743, L.5, 11s. 1d.; in 1773, L.6, 3s. 9d.; in 1783, L.10, 10s. 1½d.; in 1793, L.9, 16s. 5d.; in 1794, L.10, 8s. 4d. The number of those who received charity from the poor's funds during the above years, were from 10 to 15, and the sum given to each was at an average of 3s. per month.

The first assessment for the poor took place in 1775.

The assessment in 1835, amounted to	L.129	6	7	; collections,	L.22	4	0	
1836,	do.	113	3	3	do.	14	8	2
1837,	do.	129	6	7	do.	13	12	6

The highest sum given to any pauper on the roll, is at present at the rate of L.7, 4s. yearly, and the lowest L.1, 10s. The average of the present collections is about 5s. 9d. weekly. The mortcloth has almost ceased to be of any value to the poor's fund as it is very seldom used.

1841.